WHIRRAKEE

May 2004

Vol. 25 No. 4

Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. VBH4462

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2003 - 2004

President	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Senior Vice President	Stuart Fraser	12 Bambara Close, Bendigo	
Junior Vice President	vacant		
Secretary	Bill Holsworth	13 Nabilla Crs, Bendigo e-mail:wholsworth@bigpond.com	5443 4063
Minute Secretary	Jane Cleary	24 Goynes Road, Epsom	5448 4396
Treasurer	Stuart Fraser		
Membership Officer	Kate Lottkowitz	80 Piccaninny Rd, RSD Strathfieldsaye	5439 3157
Excursion organiser	vacant		
Syllabus organiser	Rod Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
Librarian	Diana Collier	31 Milroy Street, Bendigo	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis		0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens	82 Somerville Street, Bendigo e-mail: s.wilkens@bendigo.latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Rob Moors (ex officio), Lyn Hamilton, Maurie Lewis, Glenise Moors, Bob Ruddick, and there are 4 vacancies.

Excursions Excursions are conducted irregularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front Cover: **Photographer:** Clive Fisher

An eerie view of Jackass Flat flora reserve after a fuel reduction burn just before Easter this year (7/4/04). See article on page 4.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 25, No.4, May 2004

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
Possums in Rosalind Park....an expert opinion	Peter Ellis	4
Letter to the *Bendigo Advertiser* re: Burning at Jackass Flat Flora Reserve	Clive Fisher	4
The European or Common Earwig *Forficularia auricularia*	Graham Webb	6
Book Review - Habitat Garden	Trevor Blake	8
Online Information of interest		9
Frogs, frogs, frogs	various	10

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles.
Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's note

Our autumn weather is, as usual, fantastic in Bendigo, although one cannot help feeling a bit guilty being enthusiastic about the weather when it is so dry that any former grassed area is just a dust bowl. Of the two ironbarks in my front garden, one has died and the other is half dead. What a contrast though, when a beautiful Blue-faced Honeyeater settled on it yesterday to feed on the few flowers, only a meter or so from where I was standing. Life just seems to go on.
To fill the 11 pages of this edition, I have had to use lots of fillers from websites and other published material. While this is interesting sometimes, it is not ideal for this magazine. Please send in some of your own articles...and thank you to those that have!

Possums in Rosalind Park....an expert opinion

Author: Peter Ellis

My sister Glenda Datson who resides at Albury is a consultant on trees, wildlife etc. She had a look at Rosalind Park with me recently. Glenda believes, because possums are native animals, that the Council could not have controlled the numbers of possums in the park by tree guarding etc. without permission from the Department of Sustainability & Environment.
Was this permission granted? If so, what was the nature of this permission?
Glenda wondered if the population had reached nuisance levels owing to visitors feeding them (i.e. more hang around to be fed or may concentrate into an area to be fed) and that this may have a basis for the above action. Some councils cull possums.
She also believes City of Bendigo's parks should know what they are doing, ie have the expertise and scientific know-how to lead them to the action that we are all complaining about. Also possums can cause damage to trees when they are stressed by eating new shoots. Now this sounds like bad news, but read on.
Except for one tree (a fairly sick *Acer*) she could not see any evidence of damage by possums. The *Acer* in question however may have received the damage by other causes such as from Corellas? or just from dieback and the bark then fractures off anyway. She noted some of the guards have been placed above some hollows that are only a metre or so from the ground and thus some possums could survive. We also noted feral bees in one of the low hollows, so Council should be monitoring and doing something about that. The trees are all stressed, the conifers in particular and the elms (as noted in the paper a few weeks back) are deteriorating due to Dutch Elm Beetle infection. Many of the other trees are also affected by mites of some type. By and large, it is a water stress factor and the drought is the obvious cause, although it could also be excess ground water. Who knows? The creek may have an underground seep or flow and the water table be high regardless of the drought.
City of Bendigo parks management should know if they have carried out any tests with soil probes etc. Some of the trees will also be stressed because newer garden beds have been established by raising the soil level close to long established trees. This (even a few centimeters) can suffocate their roots. To get around that perhaps the soil beds should only have been raised a couple of metres out from the trunks (as was done around the big elm at Market Square in the 1970's, it is doing well). Glenda reports that in Albury the council uses what is called a 'breathing layer' over and around the tree roots with a layer of aggregate thus soil cant compact (unless theres a path or carparking over the roots) and this has worked well over many years. The gut feeling from Glenda (from a passing visit without time for proper tests) is that the trees are definitely stressed and it's not due to the possums. We were both concerned also that the placement of guards around the trees seems to be a 'trend' shared between other cities, Melbourne, Albury etc. However, she stresses, Department of Sustainability & Environment had to be consulted and to have given permission.

Dr Tom Burton, well known by many club members, will give a talk about

Frogs of the Mandurang Valley

at the Annual General Meeting of the Sheepwash Creek LandCare Group
Mandurang Hall
Thursday 20 May
7:30 p.m.

All welcome

Letter to the Bendigo Advertiser
re: Burning at Jackass Flat Flora Reserve

Author: Clive Fisher

Dear Editor,

Fire-fighters do a great job when they are needed and at times put their lives on the line to save other people's property. However, I believe they sometimes get it wrong, as they are only human.

Brett Wagstaff (DSE) was quoted in the Bendigo Advertiser of April 8 as saying, "If the weather isn't right they (fuel reduction burns) don't happen.

I don't know much about fire-fighting, but I believe the weather wasn't quite right to burn the Jackass Flat Flora Reserve on Wednesday, April 7.

The south-easterly wind caused the burning crown of a red iron-bark to create at least one spot-fire outside the planned burn area. As the crown could not be extinguished, they felled it, using a chain-saw. Walking round the area on Sunday April 11, I found four more felled iron-barks. The ground in the area where they were felled had been churned up to a depth of 30 centimetres in places by the wheels of fire-fighting vehicles which travelled away from tracks and crushed many shrubs in so doing (see photos below).

It is well-known that when ground that is covered by native vegetation is disturbed in this way, it opens up the soil to penetration by weeds.

At present there are very few weeds in the Jackass Flat Flora Reserve, and at least one hundred and twenty species of indigenous plants.

Felled Ironbark and soil damage at the Jackass Flat Flora Reserve 11/4/04.

Photo by Clive Fisher

Soil Damage caused by fire fighting vehicles Photo taken by Clive Fisher on 11/4/04

I conversed with Mr. Wagstaff on the day of the burn close to where a mass of wax-lip orchids (*Glossodia major*) flowered last September. In that month and in October last year, there bloomed several species of greenhood, blue caladenias, hooded caladenias and even purplish beard-orchids.

It remains to be seen whether the damage done to the soil will result in the introduction of weeds such as oxalis and cape weed. However, if the DSE plans to conduct burns in the reserve every autumn, which I think is their plan, I have grave fears for its future status as an almost weed-free area.

If DSE believes it is necessary to burn the reserve in the future, I ask them to wait for a calmer day, so that the destruction of Wednesday April 7 will not be repeated.

Shrubs flattened by fire fighting vehicles at Jackass Flat Flora Reserve. Photo taken by Clive Fisher on 11/4/04

The European or Common Earwig, *Forficularia auricularia* – Part 1.

Author: Graham Webb

Editor's Note: This article is only slightly modified from the original which appeared in the Newsletter of the Australian Institute of Biology (Vol.5, No.1, July1st, 2003). It is reprinted her with the author's permission. The author has promised Part 2 sometime this year.

This insect, which shows many interesting characteristics, is common in hills around major cities in Australia.

Classification

In the Phylum Arthropoda, Class Insecta, Order Dermaptera, Family Forficuloidae, the European or Common earwig, *Forficularia auricularia* L. was named by the author of the binomial system for naming organisms, Carolus Linnaeus (1707-78).

Actually, Linnaeus quite innocently classified the Common earwig incorrectly as two species: *F. auricularia* and *F. forcipata*. The reason for this is that the males are so distinctively dimorphic that they can easily be mistaken as being two species; and so currently, *forcipata* is applied only to a variety of *F. auricularia* males.

For a long time, the Dermpatera were classified as Orthopteroid insects, along with the grasshoppers, crickets, mantids, cockroaches and stick insects. Certainly, like these, the earwigs are hemimetabolic, just going through a series of nymphs until reaching adulthood, but in most other respects, especially their chromosomes, they are unlike the other orthopteroid insects.

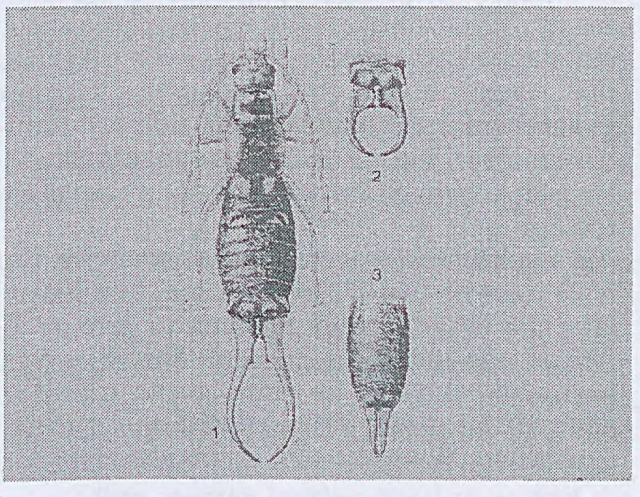
Distribution

The natural distribution of *Forficularia auricularia* L. is thought to have been around Switzerland, and from there is was probably first dispersed all over Europe by the Romans, as far afield as Britain. In more recent times, *F. auricularia* has been so widely spread around the world that it is now regarded as cosmopolitan (common indeed). As an illustration of the wide distribution of the species, some years ago, the author analysed the chromosomes of the population of *F. auricularia* from St Johns, Newfoundland, Canada, whilst also working on the species in Melbourne, Australia. Populations of *F. auricularia* can be found in most parts of Adelaide, but they are particularly prominent in the hills; around Claredon, they are found in large numbers under stones and logs.

Appearance

The Common earwig is dark brown, 150-200mm long depending on whether the females are gravid or not, and whether the males are of the *forcipata* longer variety.

The wings are short and when unfolded have the shape of a human ear; hence perhaps the name "earwig", although many species of earwig are wingless.



European earwig showing the two varieties of male forceps as well as the female abdomen.

Two small lumps on the third segment of the abdomen are the sites of glands which excrete a repulsive spray backwards. These glands were recorded in *New Scientist* as being "the most economical chemical weapon in the insect world". When threatened, earwigs spray chemicals (quinones) from these glands. The quinones are stored as crystals, which are dissolved by another chemical (pentadecane) and are then sprayed through such tiny openings that undissolved crystals are not expelled and wasted (Eisner et al). Probably these glands are a major factor in the success of the common earwig against potential predators.

The major feature of the appearance of earwigs are the "forceps" on the end of the abdomen. These are expanded cerci and in action, they are indeed used like forceps. In the author's experience the champion in the field was a nymph of the species *Dacnodes shortridgei* from Western Australia which could catch fruit

flies on the wing with its forceps. The females of the common earwig have slightly curved forceps, which can inflict a little pain to a finger, but the forceps of the males are rather more for show. As in many other earwig species, the forceps of the males of the common earwig show two distinctive forms which caused Linneaus' previously mentioned error of initial classification. Interestingly, the markedly different forceps of the common earwig were the subject of the first publication on the phenomenon of dimorphism, with the famous biometrician William Bateson as one of the authors, and the figure in the publication made from a woodcut!

Many individuals of the Common earwig can be found with asymmetric forceps, one male and the other apparently female. It has been speculated that these might be unusually frequent gynandromorphs: male on one side and female on the other; but all such cases investigated by the author were males with one poorly-developed forceps.
(Gynandromorphs would have developed from embryos with two X chromosomes losing one X after the first cleavage division to give an XX female side and a X male side. This does occur in insects, and can be quite spectacular if the male of the species is very different from the female; e.g. Winged males vs wingless female).

The common earwig, like most earwigs, cannot fly, so in order to enter a person's ear, and hence acquire such a name, an earwig would have to crawl. This is apparently a most traumatic experience for the human victim, but also, probably, in the end for the earwig, which is usually flushed out with warm oil. The author has only met one person who has suffered this trauma (a lady in Coff's Harbour), although the earwig in this case was one of the few species which can fly: *Nala lividipes*.

Behaviour
Earwigs are generally positively thigmotactic, i.e. They respond positively to touch.
[Author's note: I used to refer only to "thigmotactic" until reminded by a rather pedantic academic that negative thigmotaxis existed. I asked him for an example of negative thigmotaxis, but before he could answer a voice from across the tearoom responded with "some women I've known". The vocal respondent was David Woodruff, then apparently a frustrated student, but later a quite famous biologist who worked extensively with Stephen J. Gould. The more general, less amusing answer, from the pedant, was "fledglings in the nest".]

Because of their preference to be in contact with surfaces, earwigs are found under the bark of trees or more solid litter on the ground. They are prone to dessication so usually prefer damp situations as well as contact, such as suburban compost heaps. One reputed effort of positive thigmotaxis is that an earwig in a Petri Dish will go repeatedly around the edge trying to find another edge. [The author, regrettably, has never been able to demonstrate this!]
Positive thigmotaxis makes it easy to trap the common earwig if it becomes a nuisance in the garden. Loosely roll up a few slightly moistened newspapers and leave them for a few days. Then dispose of them along with the earwigs, by burning. Earwig traps based on the same principle and still used in Britain, were found in the ruins of Pompei; they consisted of pots filled with straw and inverted on a stick. This to get rid of a pest which the Romans themselves probably introduced and yet is an item of deja vu for Australians!
Earwigs are regarded as semi-social insect.
The Common earwig female nests her eggs and will gather them up with her forceps if they are scattered. She also nests her hatchlings for a short period, but in the end turns cannibalistic towards them as she responds to the development of the next clutch. During the spring and summer large collections of common earwigs are usually found but they become more singular as they over-winter as adults,with the males often dying then. This is probably an adaptation to preserve resources in the lean period, the male will deposit his sperm in the spermatheca of the female and so will have assured his biological success.

References

• *New Scientist* 2000, No 2250 August 5, p.25
• Eisner et al *Chemoecology* 10, p.81.
• Bateson, W. and Brindley, H.H. 1892 *Proc R. Soc. Lond.* 585-594,
• Linnaeus, C. 1758 *Systema naturae per regna tria naturae* (10) 143 no 1 Holmiae (Stockholm)
• Lamb, R.J. And Wellington, W.G. 1975, Life History and population characteristics of the European earwig *Forficula auricularia* (Dermaptera Forficulidae) at Vancouver, British Columbia. *Can Entemol.* 107: pp 819-824.
• http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/veg/european_earwig.htm

Habitat Garden - attracting wildlife to your garden by Peter Grant

Published by ABC Publishing, Sydney, 2003. Paperback, 94 pages. $A27.95.

Reviewed by Trevor Blake

(Reproduced from *Australian Plants online*, March edition. Available at: http://farrer.csu.edu.au/ASGAP/APOL33/mar04-10.html

What great timing for a great title on a subject where interest is expanding so rapidly.

With several years of severe drought, water reserves at their lowest ever, temperatures at all time highs, the Murray Darling with serious flow problems, to say nothing of the nation-wide, creeping, insidious salinity problem - a bleak picture if we want to dwell on it!

The responses and reactions to such doom and gloom possibilities indicate the alternative thinking and planning of individuals, groups, businesses and even governments to face the very real challenges ahead. Peter Grant with his book is one such response.

Gardening programs on radio, TV and the press are increasingly promoting much sounder attitudes to the ways we treat the land in which we live. Contributions of caring for the land can be made in small but sound ways on our own patch. This book has many practical approaches to the whys and how's of beginning a garden using many indigenous plants.

There are some useful charts indicating the benefits of plant groups in supporting a range of wildlife. A section on the collection of local plant seed and various methods of propagation and treatment is backed by suggestions on the most successful times for sowing and taking cuttings.

The daunting task of tackling a new bare block is addressed with some practical suggestions that work. It is quite evident that the author has been faced with this situation and has worked out solutions. He consistently encourages the reader to observe how vegetation grows and is arranged in the wild and stresses the importance of establishing local species to provide maximum habitat for indigenous wildlife.

Many tables accompany the text which he has tried to make useful to the entire nation - a very difficult task, but where local Landcare groups can give sound advice. Sound emphasis has been placed on water usage and its conservation through the choice of appropriate plants and the use of mulches.

I was surprised to see the alternative lawn suggestions omitted, perhaps the toughest and most adaptable grass for this use, *Microlaena stipoides*. I noted too in the first chart where Weeping Grass is mentioned that it should be *Microlaena* and not *Erhartia* which is the invasive 'Panic Veldt Grass'.

In the control of pest species of plants or animals a note of caution is advised which may encourage the gardener to think a little deeper of the consequences and reject the easy option and even accept some superficial damage so that the potential is thoroughly ascertained and maybe some kind of balance achieved.

A habitat garden with a cat is inviting destruction, no matter how well moggie is fed or how many bells are clamped around its neck. Remember the definition of a feral cat should be 'one that steps off the verandah'.

Gardens will be constantly changing as the environmental conditions and requirements alter. Various habitats, their protection, and food sources are all included in discussions. Feeding of wildlife, nectar bottles, seed trays and the provision of nest boxes receive attention and the detrimental sides of this 'goodwill' are presented. The smaller creatures, that are so vital in establishing an ecological balance, such as the invertebrates - spiders, dragonflies, butterflies, ants etc. are all considered. Lists of plants are suggested to provide for their needs.

Water gardening is explored with the appropriate approach to maintaining wildlife. A range of water loving plants are listed as are those that like wet feet but not constant immersion.

The final chapters deal with difficult areas to establish habitat, such as rain forest, alpine, arid and coastal sites. Help and advice is at hand once the decision is made to pick up the shovel and examples and contacts are discussed in this section.

The softback publication is a very practical guide to improving the biodiversity in gardens and throughout the pictorial sections is the constant inclusion of children exploring and discovering.

This would be one of the most rewarding aspects of such endeavours and has the potential to unlock a lifetime of interest and awareness of future generations.

Well done Peter Grant! Highly recommended.

Sustainable Gardening Australia
modified from GUMNUTS Number 59 - March 2004 (A newsletter for subscribers to Australian Plants online)

"SGA is a not for profit association totally committed to achieving real, continually improving and easily understood environmental solutions for gardeners. Sustainable Gardening Australia provides advice on gardening practices and clearly identifies low environmental impact products. Our mission is to change the way all Australians garden to ensure that they are working with our environment while engaging in their favourite hobby - gardening."
Topics covered include:
* Companion Planting
* Natural Soil Improvers
* The Science of Composting
* Water Conservation
* Choosing a Tank
* Greywater
* Lawn types - comparison of water usage
* Waterwise Gardening
* Butterfly Gardening
* Caring for Indigenous Plants
* Choosing Indigenous Plants
* Native Lawns
* Weeds in the Wild

available at: http://www.sgaonline.org.au/

Weed Spotters Wanted!
To tackle potential, new and emerging weeds more effectively, the Department of Primary Industry (DPI) is developing a Weed Alert Rapid Response Plan for the State. One of its initiatives is to develop a network of weed spotters to report new weeds.
Weeds might be found in paddocks, on roadsides, in National Parks, at nurseries or the local fete or market.
To become a volunteer Weed Spotter in Victoria, send your contact details to Kate Blood at DPI, PO Box 7, Beaufort 3373 or email:
Kate.Blood@dpi.vic.gov.au

'Flora of Australia' online
reproduced from GUMNUTS Number 59 - March 2004 (A newsletter for subscribers to Australian Plants online)

The 'Flora of Australia' project is a major, ongoing task aimed at producing a comprehensive catalogue of the Australian flora. The project commenced in 1981 and will eventually produce a series of 60+ volumes, describes the flowering plants, pines, ferns, mosses, liverworts and lichens to the species level. Around 8,500 taxa have been published so far in the 'Flora of Australia' book series.

In what is probably the most important online resource yet produced on the Australian flora, much of the published work has now been published online - around 4,500 of the 8,500 published taxa (information for over 50 families extracted from the following eleven volumes of the Flora of Australia book series: 3, 11A, 11B, 12, 16, 17A, 17B, 35, 48, 49 and 50).

The Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) has developed three web sites to access these taxonomic treatments of Australian plants. One covers the majority of Australia and the other two cover the Oceanic Islands. The sites can be found at:

Australia:
http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/abif/flora/main/

Norfolk, Lord Howe and surrounding Islands
http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/abif/flora/49/

The remaining Oceanic Islands
http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/abif/flora/50/

It's impossible not to be enthusiastic about this initiative. I'm not sure what the policy is for adding additional taxa to the online database - obviously ABRS would like to sell more hard copies of the Flora volumes. Presumably (and hopefully!) additional taxa will be added sometime after publication in hard copy. A table that indicates which of the published volumes are on line can be found at:

http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/abif/flora/main/published.html

Dr Tom Burton, well known by many club members, will give a talk about

Frogs of the Mandurang Valley

at the Annual General Meeting of the Sheepwash Creek LandCare Group
Mandurang Hall
Thursday 20 May
7:30 p.m.

All welcome

Editor's Note:
Tom found the frog below on April 28 at Mandurang.
It is *Crinia parinsignifera* or Plains Froglet. Its maximum length is about 22mm. The (male) call is like a wet finger dragged across a balloon. Very common in our district – calls mostly late winter into late spring around here.

Know your frog
The following sites both refer specifically to the Victorian frog fauna: If you intend to go to the fauna group BBQ, it might be good to look at these sites beforehand.

http://www.frogs.org.au/frogs/ is based closely upon the Frogwatch Field guide to Victorian Frogs. It has great information--photos, maps, keys, and pie charts to depict seasonal activity.

http://www.museum.vic.gov.au/collections/showcase.asp takes you to the showcase page at the Museum of Victoria. This site has links to accounts of other Victorian fauna besides frogs, including a great links to the butterflies and reptiles of Victoria. This site has bigger photos of the frogs than the other site, and longer call bites (taken from the Frogwatch tape, with introductions by Murray Littlejohn), but the sound can be slow to load up.

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, May 12 7.30pm
Ern Perkins: 'Eucalypt hunting in Western Australia'

Wednesday, June 9 7.30pm
Melody Serena: 'Ecology and Conservation of the Platypus in Victoria'

Wednesday, July 14 7.30pm
Rod Absom & Ruth Lawrence: 'The Slaty Creek Project (Calder Hwy)'

Bird Observers Group Excursions

Sun 16th May - Threatened Species Survey in a National Park

8:30 am
Meet at the corner of Eaglehawk-Epsom Rd and Midland Hwy for a Swift Parrot and other threatened species search in the western Wellsford block of the Bendigo Regional Park. This is a morning excursion.

Sun 3rd October
WHIPSTICK/KAMAROOKA AREA

Meet 8.30 Cnr. Napier St (Midland Hwy) and Howard St (Northern side) Epsom.
Contact- Pam + John Land, ph. 5436 1511

Note: The Whipstick- Kamarooka area is noted for the number and diversity of bird species which might be recorded at any time of year. This most southern patch of mallee forest provides the overlap between the extent of range that many northern and or southern species of birds may venture.
On a good morning (winter) it is not uncommon to record up to 50 species of birds, including at least 13 different species of honeyeaters.

Bring: Suitable clothing and footwear for weather conditions, morning tea drink and snack, lunch optional.
Car-pooling: Can be organized at the meeting point
Beginners to birding most welcome

Fauna Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Wednesday, May 26 7.30pm
Topic for discussion to be advised.

BFNC Garden Working Bee

There is a garden working bee on the Saturday before each general meeting, at 9am.

The next working bee will be on **Saturday 8th May, 9am**

All welcome

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals.
It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.